

# SUCCESS STORY



## BONNIE BENCH

Bonnie came into her local Workforce Services office to apply for cash assistance in May 2016. Bonnie is a mother of five kids and wife to a disabled husband. Her husband was in and out of the hospital, with a feeding tube and going through spinal surgery. Bonnie's twin daughters have health problems that were making it hard for them to stay in school.

First, Bonnie and her employment counselor worked to stabilize one of her daughters and get her help for school. She is now doing much better in school. (Her other daughter is living out of state with other family and is doing well.) Bonnie also has a autistic son who had recent legal issues. Bonnie started attending counseling to help her deal with everything on her plate.

Once Bonnie was stabilized, she started to look for employment. Bonnie heard about the Invest in You Too program and attended an orientation and interview and was accepted into to the program in April 2017.

During the program Bonnie demonstrated commitment and did not miss a single day of class. She ensured her husband and children were safe so she was able to attend without any issues. She continued to tend to their health issues and worked with her son on his legal problems.

Although she was initially worried about her age and if she would fit in with the group, which was younger, Bonnie's experience and maturity actually added a valuable perspective to the other students in the classes dealing with parenting.

During one of the employer tours, Bonnie got excited about the opportunity to work at Nelson Labs. She applied and was hired before she even graduated. Bonnie is now employed in a full-time job that she loves.